MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
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Volume 138, Number 4

Thursday, March 01, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 57°F | 39°F
Partly Cloudy

FRI: 44°F | 37°F
Rain

SAT: 40°F | 36°F
Mostly Cloudy

Obama speaks at Sloan, audio leaked

Attendees, including credentialed press, were prohibited from sharing contents on any platform

By Patrick Wahl and Jessica Shi
EDITORS

An attendee at a panel talk given last Friday by former President Barack Obama at the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference leaked an audio recording of the event, although press reporting was banned and attendees were told they could not disseminate information of any kind on any platform. The recording was published online Monday evening by the libertarian magazine Reason.

Obama focused a good portion of his hour-long talk on his love of sports, including his career as a high school basketball player. He joked about how his life might have been different if he had concentrated on basketball as a student, saying in the leaked recording, "I probably could have been a benchwarmer on a mediocre Division I [NCAA] team, like a walk-on kind of guy."

The theme of the conference did not cause him to shy away from social issues entirely, however. He went on to call social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook "a public good as well as a commercial enterprise" and noted that they have helped to furnish social spaces where people can assume worldviews based on completely different sets of facts.

He also commented on the lack of major scandals surrounding his administration, which limited the "drama" in his White House, and stressed the importance of creating safe environments for women in the workplace.

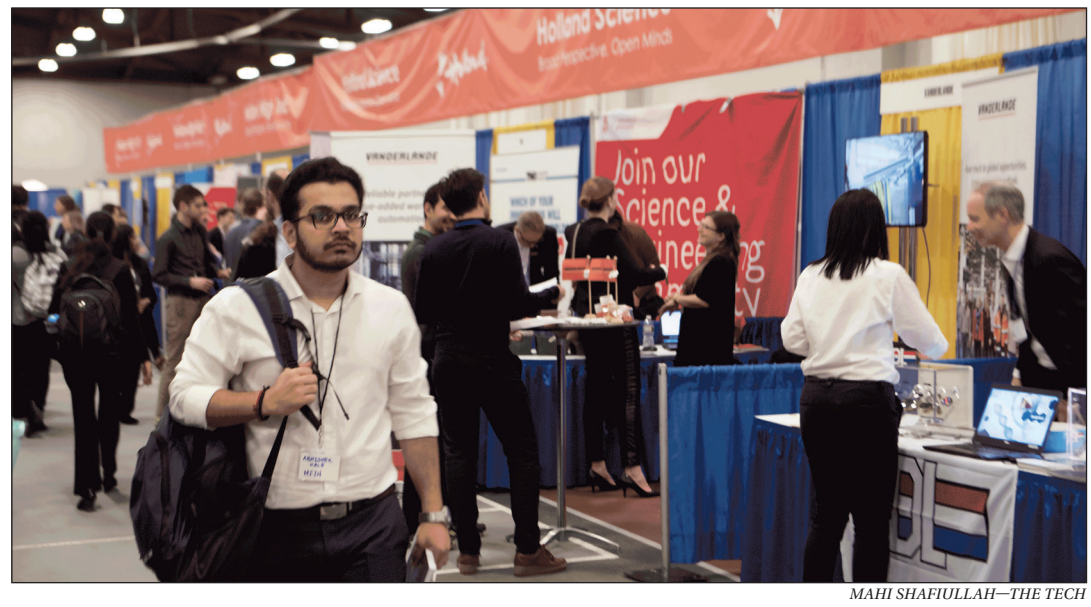
The relative mundanity of these remarks for an Obama speech, however, led Reason to comment "the most newsworthy thing about [the speech] is the simple fact that the public wasn't supposed to hear it" in the article which included the recording.

The SSAC Media Team sent an email the day before Obama's speech notifying press members who were covering the conference that "the sharing or reporting of its contents on public platforms, including news outlets and social media, will not be permitted."

This announcement led The Boston Globe to publish a piece headlined, "The first rule of seeing Barack Obama in Boston is don't talk about seeing Barack Obama in Boston."

The Globe wrote that the notice included the warning, "Those who fail to adhere to this policy will be subject to removal from the conference and denied tickets to future SSAC conferences," though the email The Tech received did not contain this sentence.

Both the Sloan Sports Conference and the Office of Barack and Michelle Obama did not respond to The Tech's requests for comment on why the talk was off-the-record. The talk was open to anyone who bought tickets to the conference or received press credentials.



MAHI SHAFIULLAH—THE TECH

The MIT European Career Fair took place Saturday, Feb. 24 in the Johnson track.

BSU kicks off 50th anniversary celebration with panel event

Three more events, including D.C. trip, to follow

By Emma Bingham and Sheila Baber
EDITORS

The Black Students' Union kicked off its 50th anniversary year with two alumni panel discussions and a keynote speech from Bob Weis, president of Walt Disney Imagineering.

The first panel featured alumni who had pursued careers in science or engineering after graduating from MIT, and the second featured alumni who had followed other paths, such as music, film, or anthropology.

BSU co-chair Anthony Rolland '19 wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the event organizers wanted to show students a "diverse perspective" of what they could do after graduating from MIT by inviting panelists from different fields and of different ages.

The BSU is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year with a series of four events: the kickoff event, called "Design Your Destiny"; a reunion over CPW weekend April 21–22; a trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Howard University; and an event in the fall featuring the founders of the organization.

The organization wants to "celebrate the black students at MIT and their importance [both inside and outside] the Institute" through its anniversary celebrations, Rolland wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

The event was planned by Diversity and Inclusion Officer Judy "JJ" Jackson, the BSU executive committee, and representatives from the Black Alumni(ae) of MIT.

During the first panel, panelists shared the paths and challenges that led them to become scientists or engineers.

Aprille Ericsson '86, now a mission manager at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, joined the Minority Introduction to Engineering

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IN SHORT

CPW activities submission deadline is today.

Add date is March 9.

The undergraduate fall housing application opens March 4.

Register to host a prefrosh for CPW by March 23. Fill out the application at community.mitcpw.org.

March 9 is the last day to change classes **from listener to credit** and to complete **cross-registration**, and the last day for juniors and seniors to **change electives to P/D/F grading** or for sophomores to change a subject to or from **exploratory.**

***The Tech* is looking** for sports writers, photographers, and production staff.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

MIT to switch to semi-monthly pay system

New pay dates will typically fall on 15th and last day of each month

By Sandhya Kalavacherla
NEWS EDITOR

MIT's current pay schedule will transition from a monthly to semi-monthly schedule starting in April. This change will affect faculty, salaried staff, graduate students, and fellows. These individuals will receive the same total pay per month, but half that amount will be paid earlier.

An information session about this new pay schedule was led by Chris Durham, assistant director of Human Resources/Payroll and Merchant Services Feb. 21. The event was attended by several staff members from various MIT departments.

The new pay dates will be on the 15th and last day of each month. However, if either day falls on a weekend or a holiday, the pay date will be moved to the previous Friday. Consequently, the pay dates for the month of April will be on Friday, April 13 and Monday, April 30.

Undergraduates will continue to be paid weekly, Durham said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Durham explained that one of the reasons for the pay schedule change was to remain competitive in the marketplace. The state of Massachusetts and other local institutions, such as Harvard University, currently follow a bi-weekly schedule.

MIT's HR recruiting teams have previously said that it has been a challenge to transition some people to MIT. "The current monthly pay

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Applicants: peaceful protest okay

Stu Schmill '88, dean of admissions, pledged Feb. 22 that MIT will not look unfavorably upon applicants who incur disciplinary action due to "meaningful, peaceful participation in a protest."

Schmill communicated this statement in a blog post on MIT Admissions.

After seventeen people were killed in a Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, student activists formed Never Again MSD to advocate for policies and reforms that would prevent future tragedies.

As some high schools announced that students who participate in related protests may face disciplinary action, concerned applicants and early action admits expressed concern that their place at MIT would be threatened if they chose to participate, Schmill explained.

"If any admitted students or applicants are disciplined by their high school for practicing responsible citizenship by engaging in peaceful, meaningful protest related to this (or any other) issue, we will still require them to report it to us," Schmill wrote.

"However, because we do not view such conduct on its face as inappropriate or inconsistent with their prior conduct, or anything we wouldn't applaud amongst our own students, it will not negatively impact their admissions outcome," Schmill continued.

"An MIT education is about ... developing the ability and passion to work wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind," Schmill wrote. Therefore, MIT Admissions will uphold MIT's value of civic responsibility in reading applications with these disciplinary reports, according to Schmill.

—Zoe Anderson

GUNS, SEX, AND VIOLENCE

Jennifer Lawrence exposed in a new role. **ARTS, p. 9**

TUMORS AND T-CELLS

The Spranger Lab hopes to understand how cancer cells interact with the body's immune system. **SCIENCE, p. 11**



ART OF MOZART

Blomstedt conducts an all-Mozart program. **ARTS, p. 9**

ESSAYS THAT WORKED

Apples may keep the doctor away, but they certainly helped Ivy get into MIT. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 7**

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WEATHER

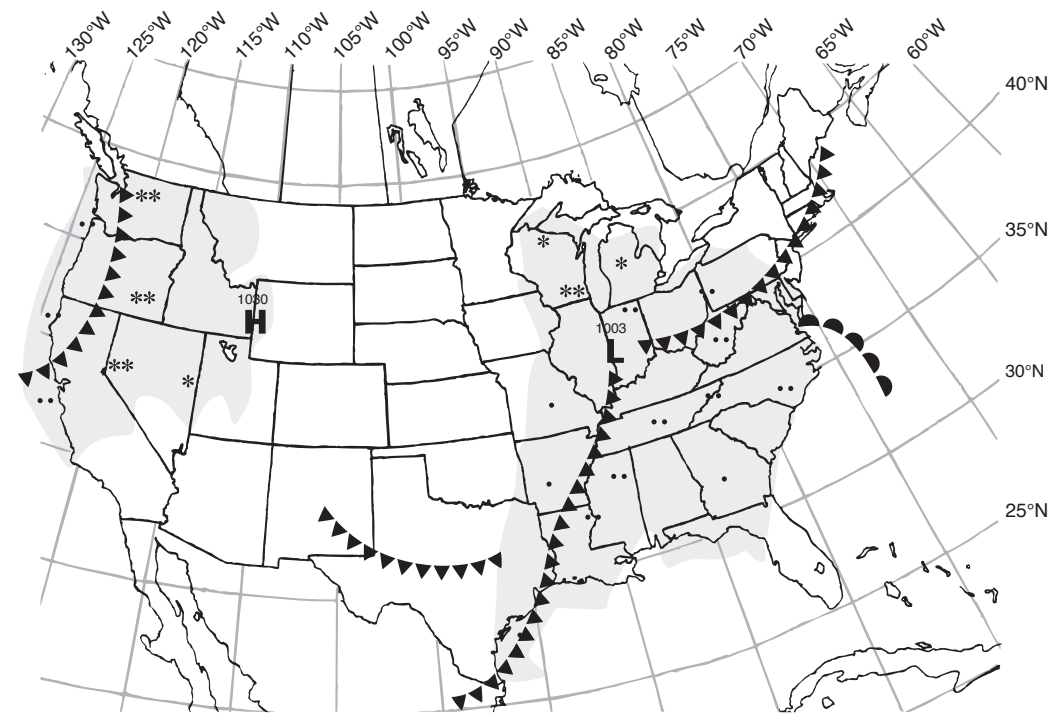
Major storm brewing for New England

By Jordan Benjamin and Tafsia Shikdar
STAFF METEOROLOGISTS

The nicer weather of the last few days will be followed by a stormy Friday as a powerful low pressure system forms over the Northeast. We've enjoyed good weather over the past few days, but unfortunately it's still winter — not yet time to bring out the shorts and T-shirts for good, as we look forward to cold, wet weather and high winds to round off this long week. Storm ahead! The outlook for the coast looks gloomy as potentially damaging winds, rain, coastal flooding, and maybe even some snow try to ruin the start of the weekend. Poor weather conditions will dominate Friday as the low pressure system rapidly intensifies and moves east into the Atlantic. Stay alert and up to date! Thankfully, the storm will move quickly away from the East Coast, leaving us with a cloudy Saturday and possibly sunny Sunday to look forward to. The temperature will remain quite chilly though — as usual, the weather doesn't quite know what to do with itself!

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 57 °F (14 °C). Winds of 5–10 mph switching from SW to NE in the afternoon.
Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of rain. A low of 41 °F (5 °C). Winds of 10–20 mph from the NE.
Tomorrow: Rain, at times possible mixed with snow. A high of 44 °F (7 °C) and a low of 37 (3 °C). Winds of 20–30 mph, with gusts up to 50 mph, from the NE.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a high of 40 °F (4 °C) and a low of 36 °F (2 °C).
Sunday: Partly sunny with a high of 40 °F (4 °C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, March 01, 2018

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	⁂	∴	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

Panelists represent wide range of career paths

Stephen Colbert show saxophonist: MITES program 'changed my life'

BSU, from Page 1

and Science program at MIT as a 17-year-old and fell in love with engineering.

Ericsson recalled, "I stayed up till 2 a.m. to make a bridge and almost cut off the tip of my finger. I had to go to the infirmary, but the bridge looked good."

Ericsson's path to engineering success was fraught with other challenges as well. "I failed differential equations twice, and was told I could not succeed here at MIT," Ericsson shared.

But at the same time, there were people around her who believed in her. "This was really important," Ericsson said.

Prof. Wesley Harris described his high school physics teacher Ms. Eloise Washington as being "my beacon, my mentor." She had helped him build a cloud chamber and win first place at a black students' science fair, and encouraged him to apply and enroll at the University of Virginia after the same project went on to receive the third prize at the white students' science fair.

"Let them know that you are black," she had said. "Let them know that black students can get scholarships."

Melissa Smith PhD '12 of Lincoln Laboratory shared advice others had given. She said you shouldn't compare yourself to other people, as "You don't know their advantages, their disadvantages, and their circumstances."

The panelists also revealed their love of science fiction. For Prof. Sylvester James Gates '73, the movie Spaceways was his first introduction to science as a child. He eventually came to own an entire collection of the Fantastic Four comic series.

"If I had kept my collection since then, I would have been a millionaire," Gates said. "Unfortunately, my stepmother forced me to throw them all away when I went away to college."

During the second panel, panelists discussed what led them initially to attend MIT, and then what turned their interests to fields outside of STEM.

Moderator Robbin Chapman PhD '06, associate provost and academic director of diversity at Wellesley College, told the audience that "one of the best parts of having a PhD" is that "it doesn't limit your options — it expands your options."

Chapman, who earned her PhD in EECS and worked for NASA, now combines her love for computation with her interest in education, through "scholar-activism."

Other alumni described lifelong loves of both music and science.

Louis Fouché '07, now the saxophonist on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, grew up in rural Mountaintop, Pennsylvania, where there were no other black or Latino families. Fouché's parents taught him about his identity as black and Puerto Rican.

"Growing up, I was very culturally aware," he said.

After hearing jazz musician Jimmy Smith play saxophone as a 12-year-old, Fouché "caught the music bug" and learned how to play his father's saxophone. In high school he attended the MITES program, which he said "changed his life."

After graduating from MIT, he worked on his music career while simultaneously developing the MIT Online Science, Technology, and Engineering Community program for the Office of Engineering Outreach Programs. In 2016, he left MOSTEC, to which he had been devoted for five years, and decided to pursue music full-time. He described it as getting rid of his "safety net."

Kelvin Frazier PhD '15 first tried to double major in chemistry and music in college, but ended up choosing math and chemistry over music.

However, he was still able to pursue his passion for music extracurricularly by participating in choir and band. When Frazier found that he was the only black student in his graduate classes at MIT, he joined the Academy of Courageous Minority Engineers and eventually became the president of both ACME and of the Black Graduate Students' Association.

After graduating from MIT, Frazier found a brief stint at a consulting firm but eventually decided to restart his career as an R&B singer-songwriter. An independent label later discovered him, and now his new single, "Marked and Scarred," has appeared on the Top 40 Urban AC radio charts and on the Sirius XM "Heart and Soul" national radio station.

Other panelists also shared the challenges of living between the worlds of STEM and other fields. Prof. Amah Edoh '03, now assistant professor of African studies at MIT, earned her PhD in anthropology from the Institute in 2016.

Growing up in Togo and Zimbabwe, Edoh "had this question of what it meant to be a black African in the world" from an early age.

Edoh arrived at MIT, following in her brother's footsteps, but soon realized STEM was not her passion.

For many years, she pursued global health work, first as a Fulbright Scholar in Zambia, developing a program for children who were either infected or orphaned by HIV, then at Harvard, earning her Masters in Public Health.

But rather than the solution-focused world of public health, she was "more interested in who determined what the problem was, and who determined what a solution looked like." She ended up studying anthropology, earning her PhD from MIT.

As a HASS-inclined person, she felt like an outsider in the STEM world. "You know there's a hierarchy in the different disciplines," she said. She had to figure out "how to fortify [her]self" — to learn what she believed in, what would provide her "spiritual sustenance," and what she was good at.

She also said that building community, surrounding yourself with a "chosen family," is important, "especially in a place where you don't fit in."

Colin "Topper" Carew, a principal investigator at the Media Lab, also shared his experience of living in multiple worlds.

He credited his paternal grandmother from Virginia with a fourth-grade education as the person who initially inspired him to write. She had shelves full of African-American periodicals like *Ebony* and the *Pittsburgh Courier*, and she raised money for kids to to go historically black colleges and universities. She was also a cook who could "make a family of ten people feel like they were all full."

She insisted he go to a white school, where he and his two cousins were the first black students. White students bullied him, punching him and calling him names.

When his white high school guidance counselor asked him what he wanted to do, he said he wanted to go to Harvard. The counselor told him he'd be better off in the Navy as a steelworker.

His grandfather had made him memorize the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling, and he recalled the line, "if you can trust yourself when all men doubt you." He emphasized the importance of self-confidence.

Carew said the work he does now is "trying to unpack some of that stuff, some of that cotton people have in their heads."

After a keynote presentation by Weis, students had the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. The Q&A allowed the students to "follow up at a lower level" after hearing the panelists' stories, and to "ask the difficult questions about careers," said Rolland.

A reception followed, allowing students, speakers, and community members to network.

Mimi Wahid '21, who had heard about the event through her affiliation with the BSU, said that she "enjoyed hearing the stories of the panelists who studied STEM fields and later pursued arts- or humanities-related careers. ... It was impactful to hear the stories of individuals who have done incredible things for both MIT and the world."

Employees must readjust to new pay system

MIT chose semi-monthly, rather than bi-weekly, schedule to avoid timing issues

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schedule can be hard for individuals coming from an institution or business with a more frequent pay schedule," Durham said.

However, some employees have already adjusted to the monthly pay schedule. "I'm used to just paying all my bills at the beginning of every month, so I'll have to change my own schedule," said Maxine Samuels, HR coordinator at the Research Laboratory of Electronics, who attended the information session.

MIT's new semi-monthly pay schedule is most similar to that of Tufts University. When asked why MIT chose to opt for the semi-monthly pay schedule over the bi-weekly pay schedule, Durham explained that the semi-monthly pay schedule poses "no timing issues." In the bi-weekly pay schedule, employees are paid every other Friday of the month, which sometimes results in being paid three times a month. As a result, employees are paid different amounts each year.

"Semi-monthly, like monthly, is nice because it fits the calendar evenly, which makes things on the administrative side much easier," Durham said.

Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt begins year as MIT Innovation Fellow

Schmidt: 'Most of the things I am interested in are occurring at MIT'

By Matthew Baldwin

Eric Schmidt, former CEO and executive chairman of Google, will begin his year as an Innovation Fellow at MIT on March 1. Schmidt will be an advisor to MIT Intelligence Quest (MIT IQ), a new initiative aiming to develop the fields of human and machine intelligence.

MIT IQ is a new initiative that aims to put MIT at the forefront of machine intelligence research, with the overall aim to help humanity by assessing and developing appropriate new technologies. In a phone interview with *The Tech*, Schmidt explained that his role as an advisor was not a well-defined plan but instead a somewhat malleable position that he aims to develop in a direction he sees most fit.

The initiative has many different aspects, such as community outreach and working with partner companies. Schmidt wants to focus his attention on applying what is learnt from MIT IQ to other areas of science, an opportunity he is "particularly interested in."

"I am very convinced that AI and machine learning, when applied to other fields and industries, will transform them," Schmidt said.

Schmidt also made clear that he wanted to expand the reaches of these technologies, especially in the core sciences, suggesting that future Nobel prizes may arise from such developments. "I'm going to start [with] the transformative effects of AI and machine learning of the other sciences," Schmidt said, referring to using AI to improve areas such as biology, chemistry and physics.

With a position that he describes as "evolving," Schmidt will likely be looking to work with a range of groups at MIT to start new projects in areas of applied computer and data science.

Schmidt stepped down from his position at Google, which he has led since 2001, in January. When asked if he was considering anywhere other than MIT, he was quick to confirm "No! No, [MIT] was my first choice."

"MIT is a natural next step [from Google]," Schmidt said. "Most of the things I am interested in are occurring at MIT."

"I remember being an undergraduate," Schmidt said. Schmidt attended Princeton University, where he majored in electrical engineering, as "computer science didn't exist at the time." He then went on to complete an MS and PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.

When asked for advice, Schmidt suggested that students "try to look at applied math ... see what can be done using applied math techniques."

Schmidt will remain as a technical advisor at Google while at MIT. The Google office is just across the street from Kendall Station, so "it couldn't be more convenient," Schmidt said.

As Schmidt is also on the Broad Institute's board of directors, Schmidt was pleased by the location of the buildings he will be visiting often. "MIT did something brilliant, which is putting all the buildings I'm interested in next to each other," Schmidt said, laughing.

"The Broad has been an amazing study of the power of cooperation," Schmidt said, which he wishes to take inspiration from while working at MIT.

Although Schmidt is currently scheduled to be at MIT as an Innovation Fellow for only a year, he spoke of possible future connections at the Institute. "Perhaps I'll get renewed," Schmidt said. "I'm looking forward to a long affiliation with MIT in whatever way I can."

"I hope it's clear that I'm extremely excited about this," Schmidt continued. "I'm ready to dig in."

FEATURE

Miss Universe alumna, MIT prefrosh

Insights into the life of Shanaelle Petty, 2017 Miss Universe Croatia and member of MIT's Class of 2022

By Tafsia Shikdar

Shanaelle Petty was crowned 2017 Miss Universe Croatia last April, and made it into the top 16 at the Miss Universe 2017 pageant. She will enter MIT this fall as part of the class of 2022. This interview has been condensed and edited for length and clarity.

The Tech: Why did you choose MIT?

Shanaelle: It's MIT! So actually, the first time I applied to college was senior year of high school; I actually didn't apply to MIT because I thought I had no chance. However, after I took my gap year, my aunt urged me to give it a try. I remember after my two hour-long admissions interview, I was so excited. I was just thinking: *I can't wait, I'm going to love it, it's going to be amazing!* Then I sat down and realised: O*h wait, I need to get accepted first!*

The Tech: How did you feel when you realized you had been accepted?

Shanaelle: I cried like a baby! I was in Italy at the time, so the announcements were being made at 2 or 3 a.m. I tried to stay up but fell asleep. I woke up about an hour after the decisions, with a feeling that there was something I should have done. When I remembered, I immediately logged in, saw the decision and started crying and crying — not crocodile tears but ugly alligator tears! When I walked into my parents' room, they were really confused, asking which boys they had to talk to. They thought I had gotten my heart broken! It was such a shock — for a whole hour afterwards I was crying with happiness.

The Tech: What are you most looking forward to at MIT?

Shanaelle: A normal schedule of some sort! It's been so crazy these past couple of years; there is no normality. I'm looking forward to set deadlines and knowing how to organize my time somehow. I'm craving that regular structure in life ... I'm so excited, after Pi Day last year I couldn't wait to get started! I'm also a little nervous, as I've been out of school for a while, but I've been brushing up on my math and physics to prepare as the start of the year approaches.

The Tech: What are you hoping to study here?

Shanaelle: Physics. I believe that is Course 8 — I learned all the course terminology from stalking people on our Facebook group page! Before junior year, Physics was always this untouched gold mine, but after finally taking my first class, I absolutely fell in love with it. My school only offered two semesters of Physics, which I finished within the year, but I had to take AP Physics C during Senior Year to get into my chosen colleges, so I self-studied for those. Even though it was brutally hard, I really enjoyed doing it. However I'm keeping an open mind about my declared major — there is only so much high school can expose you to.

The Tech: Do you have any career plans?

Shanaelle: My experience from these last few years has taught me that the whole five-year plan is such craziness — if you asked me two years ago what I thought I would be doing it would be completely different to right now! From people I've talked to, it seems there are just so many things you can do with, point blank, a degree from MIT. There are also so many things I don't know right now, so I'm just keeping an open mind and looking forward to experiencing MIT!

The Tech: What made you want to participate in Miss Universe Croatia?

Shanaelle: After I graduated from high school, I had some trouble getting into the colleges I wanted. My parents were really supportive, so I spent about a year redoing exams, getting my life back on track. I remember sitting in my room looking through a magazine about the Miss Croatia pageant. My mom had actually done it and got into the Top Six. When relatives had mentioned the competition previously, I didn't think I had the time, but in that moment I looked it up online and the applications were still open. I thought I should apply just for the heck of it, and totally forgot about it. A month later, I got a phone call and I remember thinking: *Who has the indecency to call me at 11 a.m. when I am sleeping*? So I answered in a cranky mood, and they were asking questions like: *Are you Shanaelle Petty?* Yeah. *Are you Croatian?* Yeah. *You're actually Croatian?* Initially, the people at the pageant had thought it was a joke: there I was, a mixed girl applying for Miss Croatia with neither a first or last name resembling anything Slavic. But eventually, they set up an interview, and the rest is history.

The Tech: How did suddenly being put into the spotlight feel?

Shanaelle: Weird! I still get weirded out when someone comes up to me in the mall asking for a picture — I just think *Why?* It's an odd thing; I don't think I'll ever get used to it, but it's been interesting because it gives me a new perspective on the social media coverage I see about bigger celebrities, who have a much bigger public following.

The Tech: Were they any downsides to the experience?

Shanaelle: Delaying my start to MIT. I know, very cheesy! Also walking in the high heels for so long — heels are nice but I like my slippers and sneakers!

The Tech: What was it like juggling MIT admissions alongside Miss Universe?

Shanaelle: They didn't actually overlap that much. My acceptance into MIT actually made Miss Croatia a much more enjoyable experience! I had my interview for Ms Croatia in February, and then got my MIT decision on Pi Day. This meant at the Miss Croatia pageant in April, I could simply enjoy the moment and have fun — I knew I was going to MIT in the fall, and that was all that mattered. And then I won and regretted ignoring my parents' advice to make a plan for this scenario. It had just seemed so ridiculous, so of course I didn't have a plan! On my MIT FUN form I had just written "applied for a pageant, no other updates." So I called MIT general admissions; they told me it would probably be best to defer for a year. That was a huge blow for me, considering I was so excited to start MIT, as well as the fact that I had already taken a year off. Also, the concept of a gap year isn't really a thing in Croatia, so when I said deferred to my family, they heard denied. My parents were worried that I was going to reject MIT for a career in modelling, so it was a really big decision I had to make at the time. However, I trusted the people at MIT, and was happy for the security of a spot in the class of 2022!

The Tech: Are you hoping to continue modelling or to apply to more pageants?

Shanaelle: I'm not sure — I don't know how much time I will have at MIT! It's not really an aspiration of mine, or anything I ever planned. Also, modelling careers are very short lived; 18–25 years of age is prime time, so I don't think it would be a thing. However, I think pageants you can apply for until 28, so who knows, maybe I will apply for Miss Massachusetts!



COURTESTY OF SHANAELLE PETTY

Miss Universe Croatia and member of the MIT Class of 2022, Shanaelle Petty, poses in the airport in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Tech: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Shanaelle: Travelling or hiking. It's funny, because if you asked me at 16 to go hiking, I would have said no way! I remember going on a really cute hike in Italy: there were llamas and alpacas dotted everywhere — it was really odd. It wasn't a hike into the mountains, but it was a very unusual experience!

The Tech: If you could describe yourself in 3 words, what would they be?

Shanaelle: Tall, clumsy, observative.

The Tech: Do you have any role models?

Shanaelle: Of course — Serena Williams, the Obamas. There are several more, but Serena Williams is always top.

The Tech: Favorite Song?

Shanaelle: "Mine," by Bazzi, the one currently blowing up on Instagram.

The Tech: Favorite Food?

Shanaelle: Green beans.

The Tech: Favourite Animal?

Shanaelle: Kookaburra.

The Tech: Would you rather never use social media again, or never watch another movie or TV show?

Shanaelle: Ooooh...never use social media again.

The Tech: Would you rather go to jail for four years for something you didn't do, or get away with doing something horrible but always live in fear of being caught?

Shanaelle: Is the jail in Iceland or a country where jails are nice? I'd go to jail for four years in a nice place. I'd just get my degree — prison community college for four years!

The Tech: If you had a magic wand to fix one issue in the world what would it be and why?

Shanaelle: That's a tough one. I could do the classic "Miss" thing — "world peace." It's cliché but true! Actually, I would say education: I'd fix it so everyone has access to a basic education. I feel like that would fix all other problems.

The Tech: Any final comments?

Shanaelle: For anyone reading this, help me with homework once I get to MIT please. Help me, just help me!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In response to the last BSO... review

The not-so-fine line between honesty and dismissiveness

By Zach Obsniuk

I came across the review of the BSO concert in the Feb. 22 issue of *The Tech*, expecting the normal standard of *Tech* reviews. I wanted to read how the BSO had interpreted that weekend of music. How was the new piece? Did it work well with the much earlier, romantic Scottish symphony?

Upon reading the headline, however, I realized that the reviewer was not interested in the subject. In nearly every *Tech* issue there is a review of some BSO or MITSO or MITWE or other classical music concert. I'm sympathetic to it being the reviewer's first time experiencing classical music, but it seems unnecessary to phrase the title in such a way as to question why anyone would ever enjoy such a thing.

I then read the article. I am still a bit unsure if this is an article that was accidentally swapped out from the satire issue. I really hope it is.

Assuming this is a serious article, on the other hand, I question the reviewer's need to attack classical music in the first two paragraphs. I get it's a vaguely niche thing, but no more than any other performance art, or even other interests. Saying a tiny fraction of MIT students are interested in classical music is — I think — more of a reflection of the author's personal experience and friends than any actual statistic. Was this also a sample size of three?

Take, for example, MITSO concerts, which are primarily attended by students and manage to fill half of Kresge. This is not even including the students who are in the classical music groups. Just strictly using Western classical music, MITSO, MITWE, and the Chamber Music society have on the order of a hundred students between them. On a campus of thousands of students, this may be a small fraction technically, but no smaller than many other interests which are just as valid.

But hey, I get it, it's not everyone's cup of tea. There are many things which I know other people are really interested in and go to events for, that I have absolutely no interest in. For example, I would estimate that roughly the same magnitude of people are in a cappella groups on campus (~100) as in the classical music groups I mentioned above. I have been to a cappella concerts to support friends, but I don't particularly enjoy them. But I'm respectful that other people really enjoy it! Isn't it a great thing in this world that people can like different things? The same goes for dance groups at MIT. They're really popular with some people, and not-so-interesting for other people, and that's wonderful. I won't go out of my way to go to a dance group's show, but I'm fully supportive of other people doing so.

I also understand the sentiment of "especially at MIT" if we follow stereotypes of nerdy tech students who have no creativity. But I would argue that the same logic would hold for all the other performing arts groups, like theater, dance, a capella. Yet, these are all thriving here at MIT. Following stereotypes like this is not great, because then it can be applied to other things than a technical/artsy divide.

For example: stereotypically, one might claim that, especially at MIT, religious people are few and far between, because MIT is an institution of science. I can recognize that this is a false dichotomy, just like technical vs. creative. It just so happens that I am not particularly religious. I've been forced to go to church, and I see that it's full of older people, and find little interest in it myself. People also like to claim that religious interest in young people is on the sharp decline. However, I don't run around telling people "I wonder when Christianity will disappear from the face of the earth and be replaced with pure, hard science."

Essentially, I sympathize that classical music is not for everyone, and it takes time to truly enjoy. This is true for many interests and hobbies, including those sometimes thought of as more mundane, like knitting, bird-watching, or stamp collecting. I applaud the reviewer for making an attempt to try something new. Her descriptions of Andris Nelsons are spot on, even capturing his unique quirks — like leaning on the back of his podium, or having an ethnic Latvian name (I still wouldn't call that a "sophisticated appellation" just because it's non-American).

I also have tried new things only to be mildly bored by them, and while I do appreciate the reviewer's honesty, I just wish there had been less of a dismissive tone. I don't think it was necessary to question along the lines of "why would anyone enjoy this" and also comparing the quality of the music to the "eons"-long applause afterwards.

—Zach Obsniuk '20

GUEST COLUMN

Response to Jeremy Poindexter: On conversation

The core civic value

By Stephen Filippone

I have the pleasure of knowing Jeremy, and we generally feel the same way about many issues. However, in some places we would disagree on the specifics or at least place different importance on various aspects of a topic, which is a good thing for our conversations.

Generally my problem with, "Are we ready to commit?" is that everyone will answer yes to that question, but at the same time, no one will commit. Even when we know what is in our best interest, we often take actions that are antithetical towards reaching our goals. That's human nature. A real simple example would be eating junk food even when you've expressed a desire to have a more healthy diet. But this list extends to saving for retirement or even deciding what car to buy; I recommend reading Nudge.

Here is what I will commit to; I'm committed to good conversation. Only one thing is necessary for good conversation: try to prove yourself wrong. Find the weak points in your beliefs. DO NOT attempt to reinforce your beliefs.

Conversation is the missing element for sustainable human progress. I haven't heard/had a real conversation on diversity, climate or mental health at MIT, which worries me. Maybe everyone is on the same page and we assume it's all taken care of. "More diversity," "stop climate change," "improve mental health." Everyone knows the right answers. But the devil really is in the details. Jeremy brings up points where MIT is not achieving certain goals, though we both know MIT shares those goals. That's why the heart of the problem must be in the details of achieving those goals. Getting into the weeds is not fun.

Here are some of my brief thoughts on the issues. Remember that I'm not right, but neither are you. If all goes well, through conversation we will both get to a better understanding.

Diversity — I understand the main draw of diversity, and I am not against diversity. I just have no idea what success in diversity looks like. Are there specific demographic targets to reach? Or is is success more complex than that? Is diversity achieved when there are more people like me, or is it when there are fewer like me? What are the most important dimensions of diversity?

Diversity would be a result of an equitable system. But I'm not sure that increasing diversity is the same as making a system more equitable. A lack of diversity feeds into the system, perpetuating a lack of inclusion, but diversity still seems more like a symptom and less like a root cause of inequity. I don't know of any MIT policies that unintentionally reduce diversity — there would be none that do so intentionally.

Climate — This is the big one. In case you didn't know, this is the most difficult challenge humans have ever faced. If you want a purpose in life, work on solving climate change. Jeremy mentions Harvard's commitment to be fossil-free by 2050 and carbon-neutral by 2026 as a great success. However, MIT seems to be on par with Harvard in current GHG reductions. Plus it's not a competition; everyone has to do their part. MIT's innovative power purchase agreement flew under most people's radar last year, but is hugely significant model for how less powerful groups can coordinate to make

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OPINION POLICY

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large investments in sustainable energy. Also noteworthy that the investment was in a region with much dirtier grid energy than MA, which makes a more significant impact on the environment.

Institutions can't turn on a dime, and change will take time. And it is so convenient to sit back and wait for MIT to solve our problems. I wonder about learned helplessness surrounding individual responsibility in climate change. We're conditioned to think that our personal choices make little impact and that this problem can only be solved by big institutions. You try to be green, but it puts a large burden on your life compared to your peers. I've tried and failed many times at small changes towards living sustainably. I've stopped using disposable containers and cutlery, stopped eating meat, all on and off. The burden is more social than physical. We tend to minimize how hard it is to swim against the current. We'd like to think we're all perfect nonconformists, but actually conformity is part of our psychology. What stops me from eating out of a tupperware? Nothing. Except basically no one else does it. Something doesn't feel right.

I want to change the man in the mirror. The ubers we take, the water we waste, the meat we eat, the factory farms, the monocultures. It adds up. I don't think we should go back to being hunter-gatherers, but you can't have your cake and eat it too. Our quality of life costs energy. If you live in MA, you're lucky; we have a relatively clean electrical grid through probably no work of our own. Assuming unlimited clean energy is available, I would still like to know what a modest life consists of? Is having a modest life a core value for American citizens?

Here is one change I would like to see MIT dining make: Serve meat only three days of the week. Baby steps.

Mental Health — MIT seems to take this seriously and pours huge resources into this area, as they should. Still, students seem unsatisfied, though I'm admittedly not informed enough on the specific grievances or their validity. What I do know is that it is really taboo to talk about this stuff.

I've maybe had one conversation about suicide in my entire time here. I agree with Jeremy that most students struggle with the work-life balance, but it certainly runs deeper than "microaggressions." There are internal and external reasons for that. One external reason is the rapidly-changing technological environment. We're starting to notice that social technology enables as many harmful behaviors as it does beneficial ones. An internal reason is that students' success and happiness goals are not well aligned. Getting good grades, high paying jobs, whatever thing you want, won't bring lasting happiness.

There is more to say on each of those topics, but this essay is about the importance of conversation. To cement that point further, I've written out my thought process in steps. I expect these steps to resonate with most people.

1. I'm not perfect
2. Some of my held beliefs must be wrong
3. I can become better if I correct wrongly held beliefs
4. Identify my erroneous beliefs
    1. Find people who disagree with my beliefs
    2. Discuss varying viewpoints with others
5. Repeat 4

I think most of us walking around are sure that we don't know everything, but we're also sure that what we know is true. This is certainly one of our society's biggest faults. Everyone walks around in the echo chamber. As much as we'd like to admonish the other side — the "other" — we are just like them — never questioning ourselves, never doubting that we're right. My name is Stephen Filippone. I'm a third year PhD student in materials science. I'm committed to becoming a better citizen.

Stephen Filippone is a graduate student in the Department of Materials Science.

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Fear and loathing at Pig Roast

Observations on the ongoing erasure of college countercultures

By Hector Iglesias

If you happened to be in one of the South Hovses at Caltech on the night of Jan. 26, you would find yourself listening to strange and interesting noises: sound checks, indiscriminate chatter, people horsing around. You would search for the source of this infernal racket and discover a large crowd of students dancing in the Ricketts Hovse courtyard. This was the situation in which I found myself.

I was invited to tag along with several Senior Haus refugees on a trip to the West Coast, where some Caltech students and alums had organized an event called Pig Roast because they sympathized with Senior Haus students after the dorm closed down last summer. Pig Roast was a giant feast in which Senior Haus students, alums, and Caltech students came together to celebrate the legendary dorm. Since I had missed out on experiencing Steer Roast, I was excited to attend this bacchanal, though I went under the condition of writing about my experience. And write I shall!

We arrived at Caltech on the night that Ricketts hosted an open mic night. The event started off with a student rapping about polymers, organic chemistry, and quantum mechanics among other things, never straying from his flow or cadence. This was followed by two students reading erotic poetry while eating tubs of oatmeal. Throughout the night, the air was saturated with ear-splitting rock music, youthful exuberance, and humidity. Event organizers distributed Sport Death shirts for all to wear, and with the occasional moshing, the bumping into strangers and forging new friendships, I felt right at home.

The next day, still in a daze from the night before, I woke up just in time for the actual roast. Several Sport Death banners hung over our heads as the alums eagerly told stories about their time in the anarchic community. After the alums left, the Senior Haus students reminisced about their time as well, telling stories with such clarity they seemed to have happened the day before. In that moment, I was finally able to understand where their sense of camaraderie came from: though they each came from different walks of life, they found a nurturing and accepting community that celebrated them for who they were in Senior Haus.

Though the weekend was filled with immense fun, I noticed subtle hints of unease in a few Caltech students. On the last night, I decided to walk around campus with Caltech students so that I could get to know the place better. During the walk, we came across Bechtel, the newest addition to the Caltech Hovses. One of the students explained their current situation to me: how they were worried it would become an all-freshman dorm given the large capacity of beds. He had a solemn look on his face as he said he heard from the grapevine that Joe Shepard, the Vice President of Student Affairs, was going to drop a bombshell that coming Thursday. He quickly laughed it off and led me back to Ricketts, but I could tell he and the others were nervous about what might happen.

I don't think anyone was aware of it at the time, but Pig Roast was a sort of calm before the proverbial storm. On Feb. 1, several days after Pig Roast, Joe Shepard released the Bechtel Plan to the Caltech community. Among the proposals in the plan are drastic changes to Caltech's residential life. According to the Bechtel Plan, upperclassmen no longer have a say in which frosh they take into their Houses. Without input from current students, it is possible freshmen placement can be overly influenced by stereotypes, misconceptions, and gossip that could quickly be rectified by upperclassmen. Moreover, the plan's requirement that undergrads live on campus for four years is cause for concern, as every dorm has a mandatory meal plan, which some students cite as the reason they choose to live off campus. This new requirement, however, along with the changing of off campus options into graduate housing, will impair student choice and strand financially-struggling students.

Following the release of the Bechtel plan, Caltech students held demonstrations against the structure of Shepard's decision-making. Shepard initially tasked the House presidents with forming committees, each focusing on a different proposal. The Committee on Undergraduate Housing (COUCH) released their findings in a document known as the Polaris Plan. In the Bechtel Plan, Shepard cites the Polaris Plan as a source for his key decisions, but the report misquotes the COUCH committee findings and misconstrues it to fit an alternative narrative. The language in the Bechtel Plan makes it seem like students wanted these sweeping changes to the Hovse system the entire time. Unless the contentious portions of the plan are rescinded, this may be the end of the current Hovse system, and Caltech will never again have strong cultures and countercultures.

There are sanitization movements occurring at college campuses around the U.S. This has been occurring at MIT over the past few years with Bexley and Senior Haus, and now it looks like Caltech may be next. Though MIT and Caltech are 3,000 miles miles apart, the two schools have somehow become entangled in similar dilemmas due to the decisions of their respective administrations. The dismissal of work done by student committees; the fragmentation of undergraduate living groups; the need to repair student-admin relations — both MIT and Caltech have this issue where they're ignoring the views of students and reforming the residential life system in a way that hurts minorities and erases countercultures. Although it's only been about four years since the closing of Bexley and less than a year since the closing of Senior House, their tales are already just becoming part of MIT folklore, passed through the generations by word of mouth. This time, with Caltech, the setting is different and the actors have changed. Does it matter though? Students at both schools are uncertain about the future — worried that even if they shout their concerns, frustrations, and experiences, it will only fall on deaf ears. Sure, MIT may be teeming with mental health services, S^3, deans, chancellors, and other members of the humanitarian establishment, all of whom have the students' best interests at heart. Somehow, nothing has changed. I've met people who have been affected by the decisions of "well-meaning" individuals, the anguish of knowing they don't have a home to come back to after a rough day, all struggling to hang in there for another year with what must seem to be a terrible vitality — not that you'd ever know. Among other decisions, the closings of Bexley and Senior Haus demonstrate that even though these administrators have good intentions, the ways in which changes get carried out in practice is harmful. In order to truly help students, these administrators need to really listen to what the students want instead of projecting their ideas of what students should want.

But this is exactly why I think having Pig Roast was necessary. The roast demonstrated the far-reaching influence that Senior Haus culture has on a school as great as ours. While Senior House was simply the dorm sitting in front of the Media Lab, Senior Haus was the strong culture within the dorm — the community that never judged and the artistic outlet for youths critical of the mainstream world. Pig Roast served as a testament to the counterculture attitude of Senior Haus and its prolonged existence through the South Hovses in Caltech. The need to preserve Senior Haus culture is more crucial now than it has ever been, especially since there are no remnants of Bexley on campus. The death of a culture doesn't occur through the loss of its residential space, but rather through the collective social amnesia that follows. If we want to save Senior Haus from Bexley's fate, we need to share our experiences with the next generation, and the next, and so on, whether it be through more Roasts or continued traditions.

I want to share a quote from Hunter S. Thompson in which he reminisces about San Francisco in the mid-'60s:

"And that, I think, was the handle — that sense of inevitable victory over the forces of Old and Evil. Not in any mean or military sense; we didn't need that. Our energy would simply prevail. There was no point in fighting — on our side or theirs. We had all the momentum; we were riding the crest of a high and beautiful wave....

So now, less than five years later, you can go up on a steep hill in Las Vegas and look West, and with the right kind of eyes you can almost see the high-water mark — that place where the wave finally broke and rolled back."

For better or worse, the wave has broken and receded for us as well. Sometimes on the walk back to East Campus, I look up towards 70 Amherst St., and I can still see the high-water mark, right around where the Sport Death flag would be hanging. I can't help but think that in the far-out future, we'll look back as crusty alums at this special time and place that we were fortunate to be a part of. The isotropic madness in Senior Haus that told us that no matter which direction we went, we would come to a place filled with people as wild as us. Nothing, not even these words, can express how lucky we are to know that we were there and alive during its long run.

Who knows? Maybe, after a few years, Senior Haus will become an ancient MIT myth; the recent ex-denizens and alums its faithful bards, reciting epic stories and poems to all who wish to lend an ear. Portions of its century-long history are stored on the walls of Senior Haus, with murals that scream "I WAS HERE! I WAS ALIVE!" My class ring, in fact, has memorialized the floorplan of Senior Haus on our Hacker's Map as a symbol of the community's significance to the student body.

All this and more lays the foundation for the preservation of a culture that, despite the loss of the physical place that it called home, will continue kicking and screaming for eons to come. After all, with a motto like "Sport Death, Only life can kill you," it's hard to imagine that Senior Haus's punk rock ethos will fade so long as there is a single creative misfit to shake up the community to its core.

"Senior House is dead, long live Senior Haus!"

Hector Iglesias is a member of the MIT Class of 2020.

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ADVICE

Queerness and quick queries

Auntie Matter on knowing your preferences

By Auntie Matter

If you have questions for Auntie Matter, please submit them at tinyurl.com/AskAuntieMatter.

Dear Auntie Matter,

I recently lost my virginity and it was terrible. The girl tried for four hours but couldn't get me off. Now I think I might be straight! How can I know if this was just bad sex or if I'm not the sapphic sort?

— Deflowered and Disappointed

Dear Disappointed,

Fear not. Auntie, reading this question, is not worried about your sexual future.

The first thing to realize is that the first time you have sex is not necessarily indicative of what sex will be like in the future. If you can share what you like, and your partner cares enough to listen, and to learn your body, you will figure it out.

However, you need to learn your own preferences — not just in terms of your sexual orientation, but in terms of what feels good in your body. You can learn a fair amount through solo exploration, both of your body and your mind. Auntie suggests masturbating, developing your own sexual fantasies in your mind, and reading erotica. On porn, Auntie notes that it often bears little relation to what sex actually looks like, and is rarely produced with women in mind; proceed with caution, and do not feel as though you must watch.

When you do have partnered sex again, perhaps focus less on orgasm. While Auntie commends your partner for trying for four hours (and you for scoring a partner who tried for four hours), worrying too much about orgasm can almost guarantee you will not "get there," or even enjoy the journey. Focus on pleasure. There is much mythology surrounding the female orgasm. As a woman, Auntie suggests you ignore it. Do not worry about being a girl who "can't come," or conversely, being "easy." Attempting to understand yourself in terms of stereotypes will destroy the nuance of your experience.

As to the question of your sexuality, at the end of the day, only you can know. Were you aroused by the woman you slept with? Are you aroused by other people? Do you have fantasies, and if so, of whom? All of these are clues.

Auntie wishes you good luck!

This week, Auntie Matter presents hot takes on topics from hookups to hopelessness.

Q: How do I find people to hook up with?
A: Aren't there apps for that?
Q: What if I don't like any job out there? What should I do?
A: Marry rich.
Q: Where can I microwave stuff on campus?
A: You should have joined a learning community freshman year.
Q: What paths are there in life besides finance, tech, and grad school?
A: Consulting. And fintech.
Q: How can I get a girlfriend?
A: Develop sentient AI.
Q: What is my purpose in life?
A: To quote Schopenhauer: "If the immediate and direct purpose of our life is not suffering, then our existence is the most ill-adapted to its purpose in the world: for it is absurd to suppose that the endless affliction of which the world is everywhere full ... should be purposeless and purely accidental. Each individual misfortune, to be sure, seems an exceptional occurrence; but misfortune in general is the rule."

BY THE NUMBERS

10 things that tell you that (Cambridge) spring is coming

Regardless of what the groundhog saw this year, I feel this one in my gut

By Josephine Yu
EDITOR

It's my second spring in Cambridge, but I already know what to expect: slush everywhere and flowers blooming through it. Here are a few more signs that a true Cambridge spring is upon us:

1. You feel it in your bones...or your nose. To be precise, if you've got allergies like me: You sneeze, your eyes itch, and your nose starts running all for "no reason." It's like I can sense the pollen before it even gets here.
2. People are asking what your spring break plans are. Maybe you should get on booking tickets before they get expensive.
3. You hear birds chirping as you walk to class. It won't be long until the squirrels come back out, either.
4. You can't decide between wearing a winter sweater and a T-shirt.
5. It's 70 degrees out and then snowing the next day. Friendly reminder to check the weather before you put anything on!
6. Along those lines, it rains. A lot.
7. As a result, the ground is always wet, and any field is just mud. Either it's raining, the snow is melting, or the snow is falling.
8. At least there's no salt on the sidewalk to stain your shoes.
9. The MacGregor wind tunnel isn't synonymous with pain anymore. As a resident of said dorm, I appreciate this one the most.
10. The sun sets after all your classes are over! If you have the opportunity, you should check out Lobby 7 around 5 p.m. — the doors and windows leading out to Mass Ave are a beautiful shade of orange.

MIT application essays that worked

Apples to apples to better apples

Prompt

Tell us about the most significant challenge you've faced or something important that didn't go according to plan. How did you manage the situation?(*) (200-250 words)

Response

The answer to "How 'bout them apples?" is that apples are hard. Seriously, drawing apples was hard. Trial after trial, I would draw that apple for four hours. Even then, my drawing portrayed a lifeless lump of dough. Consequently, the crux of my art odyssey was dubbed "The Enigma of the Apple."

I scoured the web. Apples. I go to a grocery store. Apples. I open my AP Calculus notebook. Apples. Terribly drawn apples, but still, apples. I don't know why I draw any more than I know why there are apple sketches in my math notebooks. I just keep drawing. This past summer, I finally completed a pencil sketch of a hand holding an apple, but this "Mona Lisa" achievement was monochromatic without the sanguine of a Red Delicious.

In my AP Art Studio class, I found myself facing an apple on my desk. Not good enough. Thus, I spent an hour rearranging the apple — now accompanied by a wine bottle, cloth, and roses — as the centerpiece to an elaborate still-life. For the next month, I grounded my Prismacolor pencils into my paper until my piece was replete with a glossy, waxy finish.

I took it home to show my parents. They stared at it in stunned silence for a while. I fidgeted with my fingers. Did I mess up? My father asked, "Did you paint that?"

I realized how far my apple drawings have come.

I laughed and said, "This is colored pencil, not acrylic."

—Ivy Li

A physics Olympiad that was almost bad

Prompt

Tell us about a challenge you've faced or something important that didn't go according to plan. How did you manage the situation? (200-250 words)

Response

I overlooked my anxiety each time my brain froze mid-answer. However, I realized the destructive effect of this problem when two hours had passed with me just staring at the Asian Physics Olympiad test. I prepared myself in an attempt to tackling the experimental section. In the rush, I spilled corn syrup over my arm. This triggered my eczema to kick-in fiercely. My skin turned red and irritated; I couldn't help but scratch until the pain outweighed the itchiness. I broke a banana that was on the table into pieces and rubbed it against my arm to moisturize and calm the inflamed area.

By the time I switched back to the test, a neglected anxiety problem was at its peak, a sticky area covered my arm, empty test pages were sitting on the table, and only two hours were left. I knew it wouldn't end well. I stopped looking at the clock every five seconds and calmly realized: I don't give my fullest for egos, prizes, or even myself; I'm doing my best only for the past Ebrahim who did everything to get here. My mind cleared. I held the pencil and started writing.

Being a half-point away from becoming among the first Saudis to get a prize in the APhO won't let me forget this experience. I never faced test-anxiety again because my perspective on test-taking changed; from counting on myself and stressing mid-situation to counting on what I learned in the past and my efforts. I used this perspective and found that solutions started to come in my mind quicker.

— Ebrahim Al Johani

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ZBT floods due to sprinkler pipe burst

Residents relocated to 100 Memorial Drive for spring semester

By Jocasta Manasseh-Lewis

Sprinkler pipes in an upstairs triple at the Zeta Beta Tau house burst due to the cold and caused a flood Jan. 4. The brothers who were living in the house were relocated to apartments at 100 Memorial Drive.

Water destroyed most of the triple and spread to other areas of the house, including the kitchen, dining area, common space, basement, and hallway. None of the approximately 50 residents were injured, and the rooms on the opposite end of the hallway were not damaged.

The house is owned and operated by ZBT alumni. In an interview with *The Tech,* ZBT House Chair Allen Cheng '20 said that none of the current ZBT trustees have experience dealing with extensive damages or relocation. According to Cheng, ZBT President Luis Sandoval '19 mostly dealt with the immediate aftermath of the flood.

With many of the brothers returning to campus for IAP, ZBT relied on help from alumni for immediate accommodations. Cheng expressed that he felt the FSILG office and the DSL provided well for the brothers' living accommodations; however, he also mentioned that "budget issues could have been better dealt with."

ZBT is using its savings funds towards repairing the house and covering some of the costs of the 100 Memorial Dr. apartments so that the brothers can pay a similar rate for housing as the price of fraternity housing. MIT also has a contact person who is handling the insurance coverage.

The FSILG office and DSL are working closely with ZBT to aid the house repair process and find a space where ZBT can host its Campus Preview Weekend events, according to FSILG Director Brad Badgley.

"We're definitely concerned about our ability to accommodate freshmen," Cheng said.

The FSILG office and DSL have done their best to house the brothers together, according to Cheng. However, the brothers no longer have a common space, and they are also limited by concerns such as noise complaints. "I really do miss the aspect of how close people were," Cheng said.

However, the house repairs ensure its future stability. "This could be a chance to fix up the house for the next ten, twenty years, which I think will be really good for us," Cheng said. According to Cheng, the brothers are projected to be able to move back into the house by mid-July.

SafeRide OnDemand pilot program launched

Wait times long and inconsistent, student feedback says

By Christina Warren

The MIT Parking and Transportation Office launched the SafeRide OnDemand Shuttle pilot program Feb. 12. The new service allows students to request pickup and drop off locations through an app.

The old SafeRide system, which will still run nightly from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., has shuttles travel along fixed routes and make regular stops. The new OnDemand system will take effect starting 11 p.m., and students can use the TransLoc Rider app or access the online Rider OnDemand website with their Kerberos credentials to specify their locations.

The OnDemand shuttle system consists of three vans, each able to hold fourteen students. OnDemand operates on a ride-sharing system, meaning students will share the vans as they take their passengers to their various destinations. On its launch night, it completed 42 ride requests, according to Parking and Transportation Manager Tom Giannino.

The old fixed-route system meant that many students had to walk blocks to their residences. In addition, the buses were not allowed on certain streets in Boston, including Beacon Street where many FSILGs are, due to noise complaints by Boston residents, Giannino explains.

After negotiations with the Boston Transportation Department and residents in the area, the smaller OnDemand shuttles are allowed on these streets, so they can deliver students directly to their residences.

The OnDemand system was first proposed by former Undergraduate Association President Sophia Liu '17 and former Vice President Daysi Gomez '18.

The idea for the OnDemand system arose from student complaints about the SafeRide shuttle system being unreliable, often not coming on schedule or at all, current UA Vice President Alexa Martin '19 said in an interview with *The Tech*.

The UA then reached out to the Vice President and Dean of Student Life, Suzy Nelson. The idea was developed in collaboration with the Parking and Transportation Office, the Office of Government and Community Relations, and the Graduate Student Council Transportation Subcommittee, with input from student focus groups.

While the OnDemand program was previously scheduled to launch in Sept. 2017, meetings with the city governments of Cambridge and Boston slowed the process down.

The OnDemand system is currently in a pilot phase and will be reviewed this coming June. UA President Sarah Melvin '18 told *The Tech* in an interview that she encourages students to submit feedback if they'd like to see improvements. "We don't want people to see this as a fixed solution that can't adapt if it's not meeting student needs," Melvin said.

Students have already provided feedback to the UA. According to the UA minutes from a Feb. 21 meeting, some have said the OnDemand system is inefficient because the ride-sharing feature means wait times are generally long and inconsistent, and students often have to wait through many drop-offs. Students have also complained about the need for an app to use the service.

In an interview with *The Tech*, OnDemand driver Abraham Tedla shared his preference for the new system. He called it safer, since he takes students directly to their front door, and more efficient, as the shuttle doesn't run without any passengers. Most of the time he only transports one passenger at a time.

Ghiselaine Vu-Han contributed reporting.



SARAH WANG—THE TECH

Team Toasty Boi works on their project for MakeMIT, MIT's annual hardware hackathon that brings together college students from around the U.S. Feb. 24 in the Student Center.

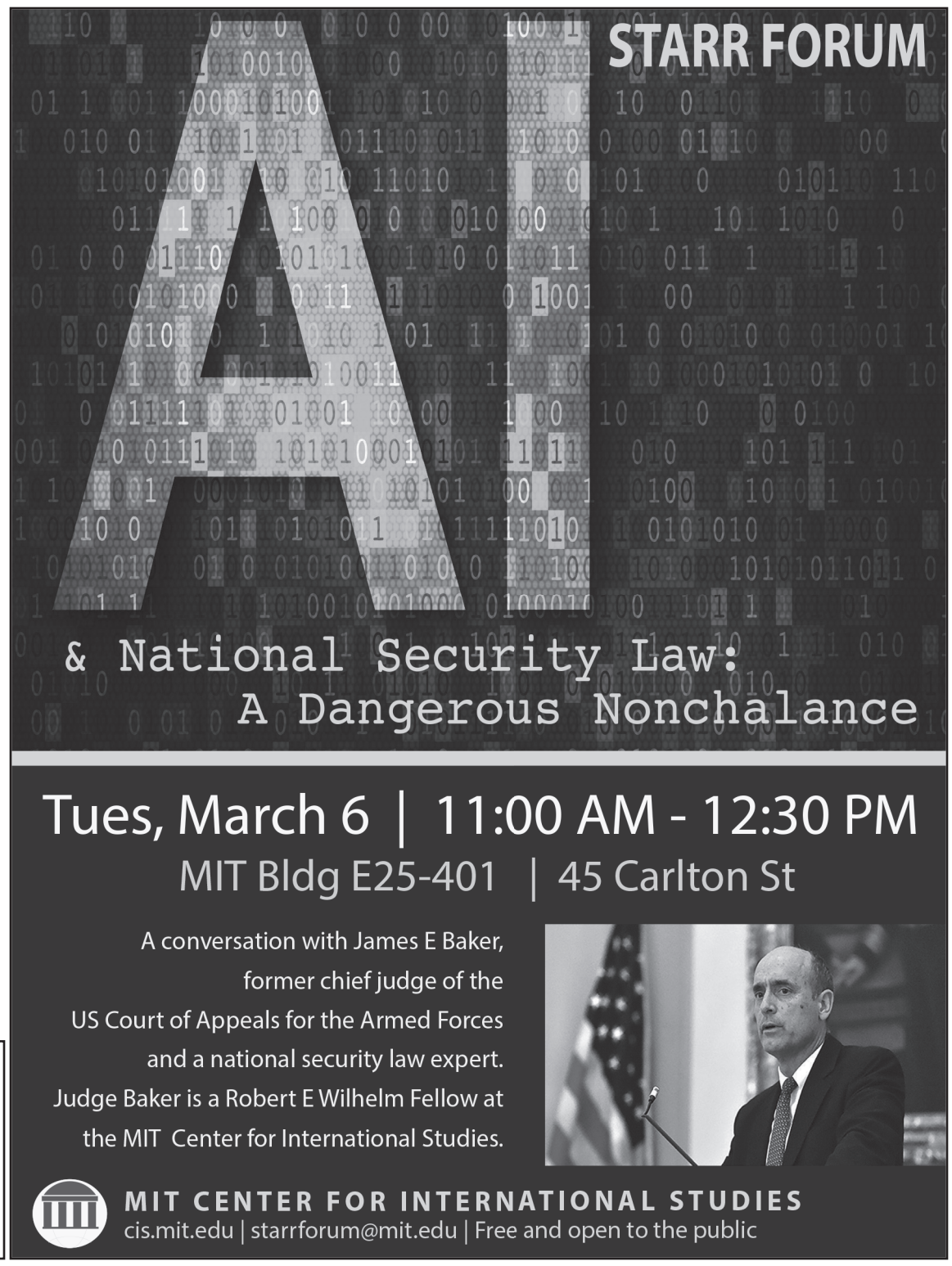


SARAH WANG—THE TECH

Playing in its first outdoor match of the spring season, the MIT men's tennis team improved to 2–1 with a 7–2 win over Division II Bentley University on Wednesday afternoon in Cambridge.

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CONCERT REVIEW

‘You can’t write 3 distinct symphonies in C’ Mozart: ‘Hold my beer’

Mozart shows the beauty in varied repetition



COURTESY OF ROBERT TORRES

Herbert Blomstedt conducts an all-Mozart program at Symphony Hall.

By Torri Yearwood
ARTS EDITOR

Let me start off by saying that I’m not the biggest fan of Mozart (an odd choice, then, to go to an all Mozart program, I know). Usually, I go in for the later, more programmatic works of the Romantic era. In that era, when a theme is presented, it’ll come up infrequently, and have lots of meaning and emotion attached to it.

Mozart takes a different paradigm all together. Instead of presenting themes as units of meaning, themes come and go quickly, providing a snapshot of emotion in the higher structure of the work, each moment revealing more of this pure idea, wrapped and coloured in the easy (but technical), consonant sound of the orchestra. This is what I learned to appreciate at this week’s concert.

The first thing that I noticed was the difference in layout of the orchestra. As opposed to the usual, more Romantic setup, with full wind and percussion sections, Mozart preferred a string-heavy layout, with only two oboes, two bassoons, two horns, two trumpets, timpani, and, in No. 41, a flute. The minimal cast did not too strongly detriment the range of timbre that Mozart could achieve, however — indeed, he manages to squeeze everything from seat-rumbling bass melodies to running strings frantically flying across scales, seemingly effortlessly.

Also unlike the usual performance, which eases you into the first piece with a crescendo, or similarly growing effect, No. 34 wastes no time, jumping straight into a loud, triumphant theme presented by the full orchestra in unison, beginning a rapid set of theme presentations, developments, and modulations about that most comfortable and consonant key of C. Over the next 20 minutes, the C scale is put through so many consonant, yet beautifully distinct contortions, never unbalanced, varying from slow and quiet, to triumphant, technical, and loud, flowing to discrete, playing with the left-right asymmetry of the orchestral timbre — something that I have yet to hear replicated in recordings, and would even attribute to the skill of the conductor Herbert Blomstedt.

The next piece, in true college student fashion (even though he was 27 at the time), No. 36 “Linz,” was written in the four days leading up to its performance, not that one would be able to tell. Featuring syncopation, a more expansive use of the winds, dynamics, and mood, even going so far as to include a few lightly dissonant chords, The piece brings yet another light to the key of C that No. 34 didn’t even dream of. Keeping his signature cadences and structure, Mozart still managed to create a distinct piece requiring its own technical and orchestral mastery. Amazingly, even though the piece was technically complex, it never felt “heavy” or oppressive, even if it was busy, it was still easy to listen to.

It’s hard not to hear Mozart grow with each of these pieces, gaining more control over mood and expression, which is magnified and coloured by the individuals in the orchestra. This reached its logical conclusion with Symphony No. 41 “Jupiter.” This piece, true to its posthumous nickname, conveys a powerful majesty emanating a confident, yet alluring feel, notably utilizing a flute to present and emphasize themes (I’m a sucker for a good flute piece, and this one very much qualifies). Even though the mid and high strings were still very much the timbric centre, the low strings had some excellent pizzicato countermelodies below the highly technical runs which swam across the stage, even building some chords which, if the melody were not quite so repetitive or structured, might have been found in a Romantic era piece, reverberating deeply below the more traditionally Mozartian melody. The full chords and technical runs complimented each other, truly marking height, and, unfortunately, last huzzah of this composer’s timeless talent.

Week 17: All Mozart Program: Symphonies No. 34 in C, No. 36 in C “Linz,” No. 41 in C “Jupiter”

Boston Symphony Orchestra

Feb. 22, 2018

MOVIE REVIEW

A confusion of sex and violence

‘You sent me to a whore school…’

★★★☆☆

Red Sparrow

Directed by Francis Lawrence

Screenplay by Justin Haythe

Based on the novel by Jason Matthews

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Joel Edgerton, Matthias Schoenaerts, and Jeremy Irons

Rated R, Opening March 2

By Nathan Liang
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Despite the director’s warning to reviewers not to disclose of any twists and turns from the plot, I still find myself speechless to qualify the experience that was *Red Sparrow*. Now, don’t take that as speechless in a good way. I lean more towards speechless in a what-the-heck-just-happened-I’m-so-confused way.

Jennifer Lawrence plays Dominika Egorova, a wildly famous prima ballerina from Russia. An accident causes her to lose her role of prima ballerina, and she subsequently plummets into the world of Russian espionage with her induction into the Red Sparrow organization. As a Sparrow, Dominika is then trained in the art of seduction, and the rest of the movie rolls out from there.

The first thing I want to note about this movie is the performances from everyone involved, especially Jennifer Lawrence. Her role in *Red Sparrow* reminds audiences of her versatility as an actress, and one can only applaud her for all the hardships she must have gone through while acting as Dominika (because it certainly could not have been an easy role to play).

Unfortunately, I’m not sure I can say the same for the writing involved in the movie. If you asked me to describe the movie in one word, I would say “cringe.” This movie is guaranteed to offend some number of people and disturb even more with its explicit use of sexual and violent content. As a teaser, I’ll just say that I never would have thought to see Jennifer Lawrence completely strip on screen for the reasons that she did. At some points, I wasn’t entirely sure whether or not I was watching a movie or the director’s fetish erotica on the big screen.

On the other hand, I can see what the director maybe intended with all the sexual and violent themes. Francis Lawrence attempts to create a grueling, unforgiving world: a trap that is life in Russia that you don’t truly realize until Dominika realizes it. There are also various parts in the movie where Dominika is forced into a difficult dead end, and when she finally gets the chance to break free, you can’t help but breath a sigh of relief.



COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

Dominika Egorova stands among other Sparrow trainees.

But even then, you can achieve this mutual exchange of empathy by other means. For example, it would be much easier to sympathize with Dominika if viewers could glean more of her thoughts and feelings at any given moment rather than be kept in the dark and viewing her as a one-dimensional character. Throughout a majority of the movie, you feel like you’re following a string in the dark. You’re never quite entirely sure of Dominika’s intentions, and it makes it worse when she appears to do things that go against her training or plain common sense.

Despite all this, I can’t bring myself to say the movie is just absolutely terrible. Yes, there may be a completely unnecessary subplot with a dumb American. Yes, some parts of the movie might be excruciatingly awkward, but *Red Sparrow* is by no means the worst movie to have graced the surface of the Earth. It’s simply a different kind of movie with more than a few flaws in its making.

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EPISODIC REVIEW

That's no human!

PKD asks what 'Human Is'

By Torri Yearwood

ARTS EDITOR

This is the third part of my episode-by-episode review and analysis of the new Channel 4 television show Philip K. Dick's *Electric Dreams*. The episode I'm looking at this week is called "Human is," based on the short story of the same name.

As usual, I encourage you to check out the show and the book before reading any further because:

<SPOILERS>

These two renditions are, excitingly, near identical (save some minor modifications and embellishments), making for a near perfect adaptation of the short story to TV show.

The story takes place on Earth, centuries in the future. Mankind has been militaristically colonizing the stars for a significant portion of that time, which requires ever deadlier tactics. At the centre of these is Jill Herrick and her (abusive and low-key inhuman) husband, Lester. In the show, Jill is a decorated strategic officer, and Lester is a high-ranking soldier who uses battle trauma as an excuse for his abusive behavior; in the book Lester is a (rather heartless) scientist designing new poisons for the military, and Jill is a housewife (as per the 1955 publishing date).

In the show, Lester is sent on a desperate mission to Rexor IV, a planet of poorly-understood parasitic life forms (known to take over the minds of their hosts to survive, imitating them fairly accurately), rich with resources vital to replenishing the Earth's dying oxygen and mineral supply. In the book, Lester is abruptly ordered to go to Rexor IV, an ancient world, completely dead save the last remnants of a civilization, squatting in the ruins of its height, who only recently worked out how to pass themselves off as humans — by kidnapping a model to copy.

During Lester's time on Rexor, Jill makes up her mind that she will leave him, that she will not put up with his abuse any longer.

In both media, Lester returns as a newer, kinder man, which immediately sparks Jill's suspicions. Reporting the change to the relevant authorities, she finds out that her husband is not the only recent case of falling prey to the Rexorians (in the show, she thinks Lester and his crew died in the fight to leave Rexor IV with the material, but Lester and one other crewman come back, both infected). Indeed, the other cases were quickly noted and exterminated by the military without trial, but because her husband is on Earth (in the book, as opposed to in space, where military law applies, rather than civilian law), or a high-ranking officer (in the show), he must stand normal trial, for which she must testify against him.

In the time leading up to the trial, she finds the new Lester to be similar to the old one, but kinder, gentler, more human. So much does she find him to her liking, that she refuses to testify that his behavior has changed (in the show, this is more manifest in her giving a moving speech using the negative stereotypes of the Rexorians as merciless and inhuman against the court as she gives evidence of his humanity), rekindling their dead marriage.

The final lines of both media are the same, in which Lester admits to not being human, but could not pronounce his Rexorian name with a human mouth, so Jill opts to just accept him as Lester, the human.

The book makes a strong point for the idea that humans are often more inhumane than other life which is by definition inhumane. The Rexorians learned everything about Earth that they could from centuries-old broadcasts and novellas and mapped their own being onto the human culture, showing how human they can be, over the hyper-analytical, abusive, twisted mind of a poison-creating, child-hating, ever-angry scientist who is unquestionably human, but invariably inhumane. Can we become so warlike and so analytical that aliens could be "better" humans, or is it that we should accept aliens as sentient beings, even if their methods are strange to us?

The show takes a few steps to obfuscate these questions and their answers (probably to pad runtime). Firstly, it more directly addresses the theme of imperialism by letting us, the viewers, into the military's control room — letting us see the frantic, greedy, desperate moves leading to the events of the episode. Then, letting us into the courtroom to see how a society can look fair even if the outcome was decided long before the trial began (even if in this case the outcome changed, making hope for a broken system).

Rather uncomfortably, there is also the sexual undertone of the episode, made so by the Jill and Lester being middle-aged and having a sex scene in the second act to show rekindled love. This, as well as the rather gratuitious cyberpunk live porno theatre that Jill goes to in the first act to show her sexual dissatisfaction, felt awkward and slightly forced. However, these scenes did drive some plot points: the scarcity of oxygen for commoners is shown on our way to the wierd porno club, and Lester's arrest under suspicion of having been replaced happens in the bedroom, catalyzing Jill's suspicions of the military in favor of keeping Lester.

</SPOILERS>

Next week is "Crazy Diamond," based on the love-it-or-hate-it short story "Sales Pitch."

Philip K Dick's *Electric Dreams* Episode 3: "Human Is"

Based on Philip K. Dick's short story by the same name

Episode Directed by Francesca Gregorini

Episode Written by Jessica Mecklenburg

Series by Channel 4

Can be found on Amazon Video

MOVIE REVIEW

'Bombshell': A deeper look into one woman's incredible life

The documentary about Hedy Lamarr tells of a fiery, independent, and unrecognized woman who was ahead of her time

By Leah Yost

STAFF WRITER

Hedy Lamarr fled from her homeland in Austria and her marriage to a Nazi supporter and came to America to be an actress. It was very clear she was an independent woman from the start of her life. She was offered a job from Louis B. Mayor, who was a major talent scout from America. She turned his measly offer down until he was forced to raise it. This theme continued throughout her life. She wasn't a woman to stand by idly. She wouldn't be trapped by her agents or her various husbands over the years.

Yet she was never seen how she wanted to be seen. She called her beauty a curse, and it was the only thing people saw when they looked at her. People "never saw what was inside." She left her six husbands because none of them treated her with love and respect and only wanted a trophy wife.

Her solace was her inventions. Despite the idea at the time that beautiful women were stupid, Hedy's main invention impacts the modern world greatly. During the war, ships couldn't control torpedoes because the radio signals could be easily jammed. Despite not yet being a U.S. citizen, Hedy wanted to do something for the war effort and seriously considered quitting being an actress and moving to Washington D.C. to offer her services to the Inventor's Council.

To help the Navy, she invented a system to control the torpedoes that would be impossible to hack and then jam. She called it radio hopping, and the basic idea was that the frequency that the torpedo was controlled by change rapidly so the enemy couldn't find one frequency and then jam that signal. She and one other inventor filed and received a patent for their invention, which they then brought to the military. Hedy Lamarr never received compensation for her invention that helped the Navy and led to so many other innovations such as wifi, bluetooth, satellite communication, cell phones, and GPS.

Her brilliant mind and her strong will led her daughter to call her "ahead of her times as a feminist." In addition to her inventions, she produced 18 films, something unheard of from a woman, in addition to being a single mother to her two kids.

While this movie does highlight the hardships and injustices Hedy Lamarr faced, she was still human, and so viewers see her flaws as well. She was addicted to pills and plastic surgery, and she was arrested for shoplifting a couple of times, eventually becoming a complete recluse later in her life.

The documentary, while slow at times, showed all these aspects of Hedy Lamarr's life. The director had interviews with multiple people who were close to Hedy and then overlaid their voice with photos or videos of Hedy at different stages in her life. Most of the voice used was a taped interview with Hedy Lamarr herself, so viewers were able to hear her point of view on all of the events in the past.

While the documentary covered many interesting facets to reveal the person behind the beauty of Hedy Lamarr, it was slow at times, losing me in places such as her dwindling career or her multiple marriages.

My favorite quote from Hedy Lamarr came at the end of the documentary. She tells her interviewer, "People are unreasonable, illogical, and self centered. Love them anyway. Do good. People will accuse you of selfish alternative motives. Do good anyway. The biggest people with the biggest idea can be shut down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. Think big anyway. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway. Give the world the best you have and you'll be kicked into the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway. And if I may add to that: Life can be very hard. Live anyway."

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story

Directed and Screenplay by Alexandre Dean

Produced by Alexandra Dean, Adam Haggiag, and Katherine Drew

Soundtrack by Keegan DeWitt and Jeremy Bullock

Not Rated

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LAB OF THE WEEK

Targeting tumors

Spranger Lab aims to elucidate immune response to cancer

Spranger Lab

Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research

Room 76-453

Course 7 (Biology)

By Chloe Yang
STAFF WRITER

Cancer is a wily disease. Tumors are constantly mutating and developing new ways to evade drugs and our bodies' natural defenses. Because cancer cells are constantly changing, the pathology is difficult to target and cure en masse. Immunotherapy research is a burgeoning field that aims to help our own immune systems clear the disease in a personalized manner, and for some individuals, the method shows much promise. However, for others, this approach is ineffective. The Spranger Lab hopes to understand these varying responses to immunotherapy.

"It's very important that we understand what differentiates a person who responds to [immunotherapy] versus someone who doesn't," says graduate student Kim Nguyen, who works in the Spranger lab. "The clinical data is very ahead of the basic science. Now we're just kind of catching up to the clinical data to understand what is happening biologically, mechanistically, and to me that's really important. I don't think we should be happy with just injecting drugs into people and being like, 'yes, it works.'"

There is already knowledge surrounding immune responses to cancer. Cells normally break down some of their own proteins and present them on their surfaces. T cells, important players in the immune response, recognize these digested proteins, or antigens, as signals of normal functioning. When foreign bacterial or viral proteins are broken down and presented instead, T cells are warned that the body's health is compromised. T cells and various other members of the immune system such as dendritic cells, which help kick off the immune response by digesting antigen materials and presenting them to T cells, can then clear the body of such threats.

Cancer develops when our own cells mutate and go off the rails. One might think that normally functioning immune systems would not be able see our own cells as problematic, but studies have demonstrated that T cells can recognize these mutated "self" cells as a threat to be combatted. This is because cancer cells might make more of a certain protein than normal, such that the proteins they present would not be expressed on a normal cell. These are called tumor-associated antigens. Alternatively, cancer cells might produce mutated proteins. When these proteins broken down and presented on the surface, they are called neoantigens. Immunotherapy uses various methods to stimulate and strengthen this response.

The Spranger lab builds off of this knowledge with a two-pronged approach. One area of their research involves digging more deeply into the ways different immune cell populations, and in particular, dendritic cells, interact with cancers. Some cancer models have demonstrated an ability to "hamper the immune response by altering a particular subset of dendritic cells so that they would no longer be able to help traffic T cells into a tumor," Nguyen explains.

The other area of research involves "identifying pathways that different cancers may be utilizing to suppress the immune system or evade it, with particular interest in how they might be modulating the T cell response," Nguyen says. Nguyen's main work deals with this altered modulation in cancer, and she is specifically focusing on pancreatic cancer. In using different mouse models designed for studying particular pathways, Nguyen hopes to distinguish between mice with tumors that are infiltrated by T cells and mice with tumors that are not invaded by T cells. In doing so, she and the lab hope to explore and understand these differences in immune response.

In the long run, findings from this research could contribute to the development of immunotherapies that are effective in more cancer patients, as well as to a greater understanding of the mechanisms behind such treatments. In the present, Nguyen and other lab members are in the beginning stages, working to develop and grow their mouse models. "There's a possibility that the candidates we're chasing might not actually be bona fide pathways that these cancer cells are using to evade or suppress the immune system. This is not low-hanging fruit, so it's a riskier project," Nguyen said, expressing worries that are ever present in this line of research, "but I'm optimistic."

As part of another project in line with the lab's mission, Nguyen is in collaboration with members of Michael Birnbaum's lab in MIT's bioengineering department. "We want to characterize neoantigens as far as the strength of the T cell response they can elicit," she said. "Let's say you have one neoantigen that can elicit a very strong immune response[...] Is the response elicited by that one neoantigen able to effectively clear out an entire tumor, regardless of the type of neoantigen those tumor cells might be expressing?"

She sees this research being applied in the clinic in the future, particularly with respect to antigen vaccines, where protein fragments are injected into patients to stimulate certain T cell responses. "This [research] could help build our understanding of what kind of peptides would be most effective." Such vaccines would ideally be personalized to the patient's particular cancer.

Speaking about the future of cancer therapies, Nguyen says,"I think previously there was this idea that we could cure cancer, maybe with the thought that there must be something that unifies all cancers, but I think we are effectively moving away from that idea. I think the future is still personalized medicine, and what we're doing now is essentially trying to understand as much about the cancer as we can, but also about how cancer is communicating with our own bodies, with the immune system, and hopefully in the future with personalized medicine, we can tackle different branches of whatever that might be."

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Spring Showers

Solution, page 16

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March Forth!

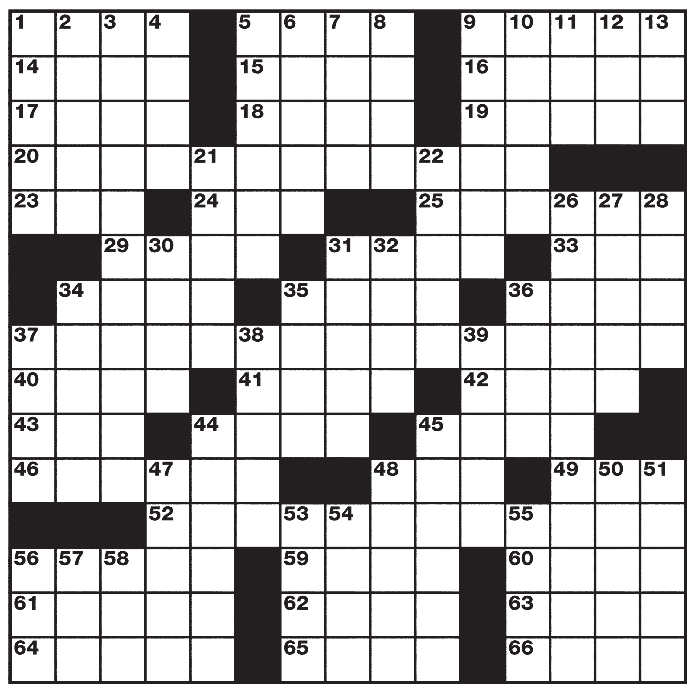
Solution, page 16

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Use Your Pencil by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 16



ACROSS
1 List of charges
5 Smartphone programs
9 Early afternoon hr.
14 __-day (vitamin dose, often)
15 New Haven school
16 "When pigs fly!"
17 Cappuccino topper
18 Biblical paradise
19 Rungs of a ladder
20 Poker variety
23 Spanish cheer
24 Strong drain cleaner
25 Settings for weddings
29 "That makes sense"
31 Adorable
33 Neckwear with an aloha shirt
34 Volcano in Sicily
35 Feeling achy
36 The Stars and Stripes
37 SNL skit, e.g.
40 Perched upon
41 Church service
42 Keep __ (be persistent)
43 Fourth of July Uncle
44 Fresh-mouthed
45 Bygone Russian autocrat
46 Fashion designer McCartney
48 Life story, for short
49 Serving of corn
52 Pony rider in a patriotic tune
56 In pieces
59 Just sitting around
60 Gloom and __ (pessimistic outlook)
61 Impish sprite
62 Christian of fashion
63 Sand hill
64 Boardroom VIPs
65 Does embroidery
66 "Don't delete" notation

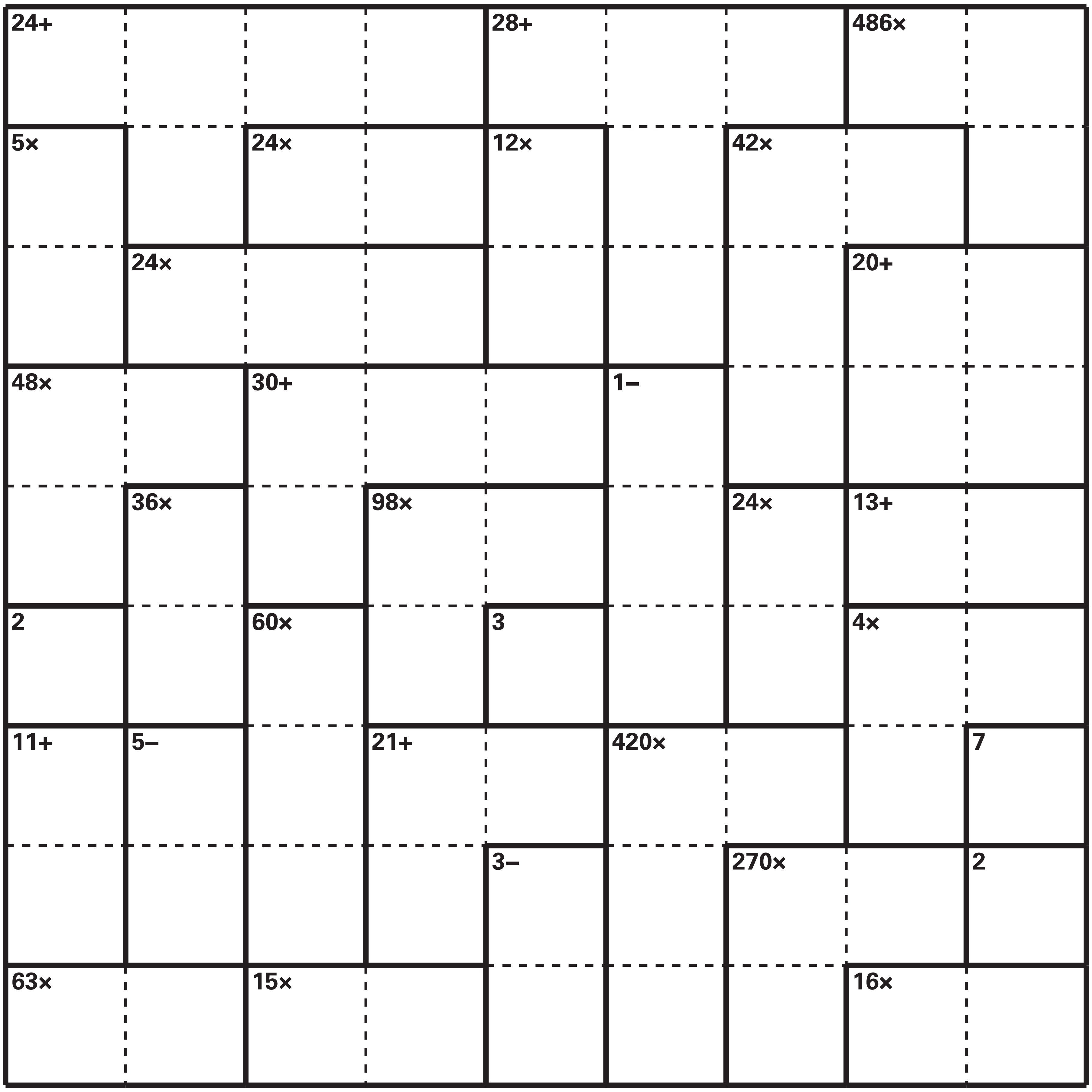
DOWN
1 Sensational, in showbiz
2 How some sardines are packaged
3 "I'll handle it"
4 Hard to believe, as excuses
5 Sailor's assent
6 Military chaplain
7 Said "Not guilty," say
8 Email command
9 At a reduced price
10 Food package abbr.
11 18 Across resident
12 Get-up-and-go
13 __ Peacock (suspect in Clue)
21 Earn after taxes
22 Evaluates
26 Totally exhausted
27 Give feedback
28 Sound of relief
30 Sound of scissors
31 Move without pedaling
32 WWW addresses
34 Bother incessantly
35 Lingering mark
36 Cheese in a Greek salad
37 Fresh-mouthed talk
38 Words of clarification
39 Toy musical instrument
44 Kitchen-cabinet stack
45 Apple beverages
47 Words to a song
48 Less than
50 Unaccompanied
51 Held a follow-up session
53 Young goats
54 Falco of The Sopranos
55 __ and ends (miscellany)
56 Chimpanzee, for example
57 Photos, informally
58 Chop down

Timmy the Frosh by Max Evans



Summer in Winter

Solution, page 16



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Pudgy Bird by Ivy Li



```
File   Edit   Options   Buffers   Tools   Im-Python   Python   Help
from new_skills import *

def learnMarketableJobSkills():
    return linux, OSX, javascript, applescript, perl, python, PHP

if self.interest == True:
    print "E-mail join@tech.mit.edu"

----:----F1 joinTechno.py       (Python)--L1--Top----------
```


Do you have an idea to:

MindHandHeart



- Build community on campus
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- Encourage healthy sleep
- Increase help-seeking behavior
- Bridge political differences
- Spread humor and joy
- Eliminate bullying
- Foster life skills



MIT students, faculty, and staff can apply from 3/1 to 3/31.

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•You Belong @ MIT •My Sister's Keeper

Info Sessions:
•Tues, 3/6, 12:30-1:30PM, 5-135
•Fri, 3/23, 12:30-1:30PM, e23-009a

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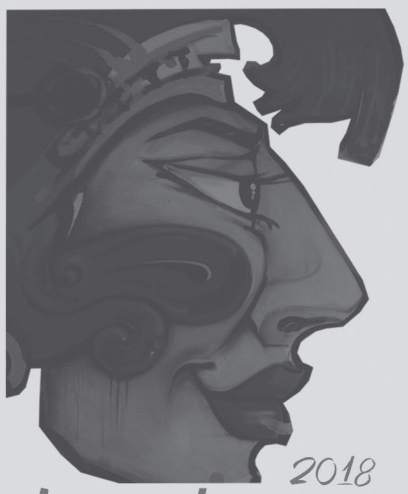
join@tech.mit.edu
W20-483, 617-253-1541

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Researcher, Research Analyst

Background:
As part of the ambitious initiative, DIALOGUE WITH 10 NABRAWY, suitably qualified persons are invited to apply to structurally investigate the site (10 Nabrawy, Downtown Cairo, Egypt) in terms of its constructions and language. The building, over 100 years old, has partially collapsed in 2016 and is currently being renovated. Be the first to find the means to listen to the building and its testimonies!

Qualifications:
- MA or MSc in linguistics, history, construction engineering, architecture, or any related field.
- Advanced English (CEFR C1 required)
- open-minded curiosity

For more information, email:
Malak.yacoutsaleh@gmail.com



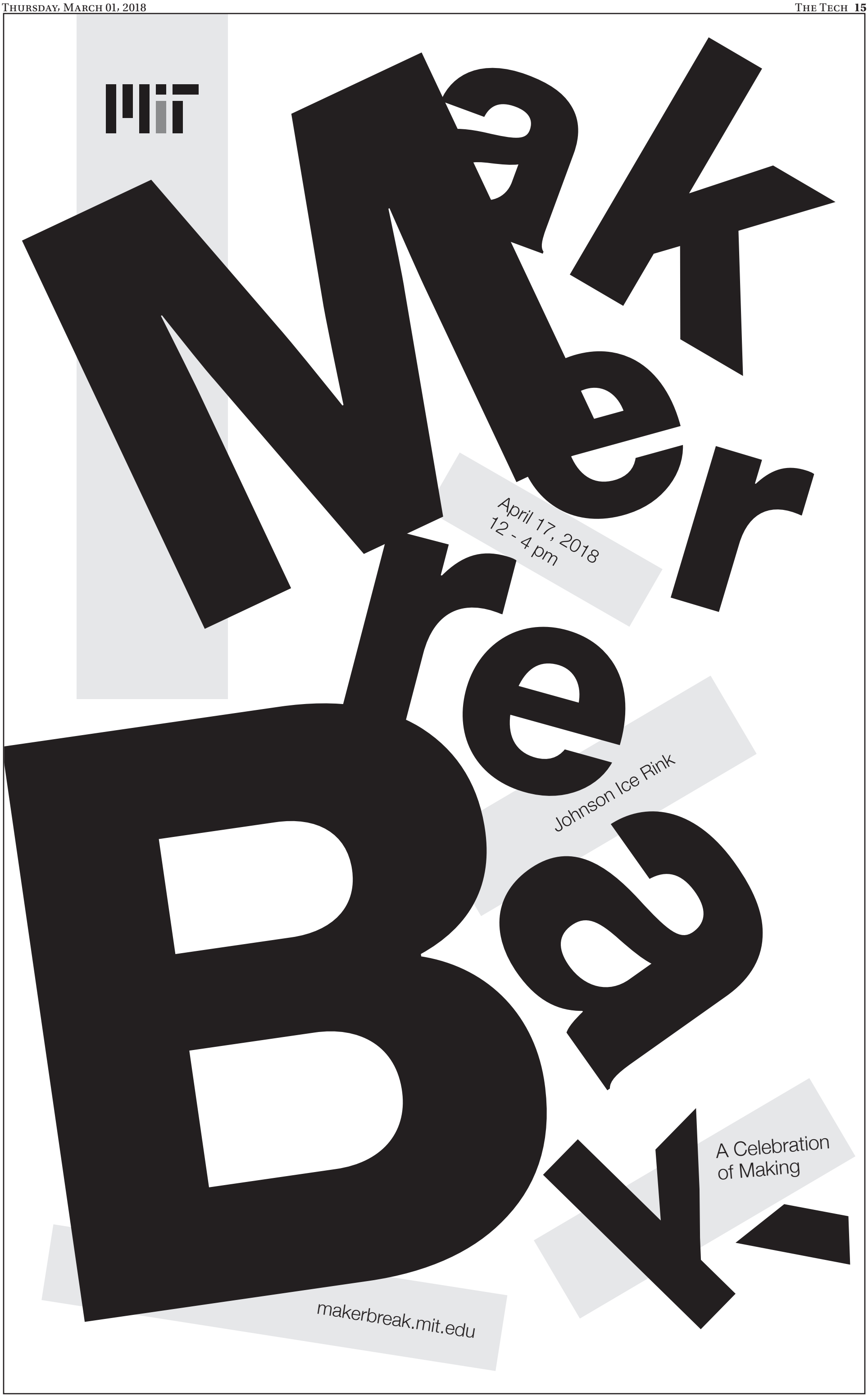
2018
Mes Latino
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Gala Sabrosura
Lobdell Dining Hall (W20-208)
March 2, 2018
9:00pm
FREE & Open to the MIT Community.

THE COOP M.I.T.

asa association of student activities


MIT
Maker Break
April 17, 2018
12 - 4 pm
Johnson Ice Rink
A Celebration of Making
makerbreak.mit.edu

SPORTSSPORTSSPORTS

SPORTS BLITZ

Men's Basketball (22–5, 10–4 NEWMAC) was outstanding in the NEWMAC playoffs. First, after splitting the regular season series against Babson in a pair of overtime thrillers, the Engineers completed a fiery comeback against the Beavers, led by an assists-points double-double by AJ Jurko '19. Then, in the championship matchup, Jurko led the Engineers in points, rebounds, and assists, while clutch defense in the final seconds sealed the tense win for MIT, making them back to back NEWMAC champions. The Engineers will face Brockport in the first round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Women's Basketball (18–9, 10–6 NEWMAC) took care of business against Springfield in the quarterfinals of the NEWMAC tournament, led by a career-high 26 points for Dolly Yuan '19. They then utilized an electric performance by Kara Holinski '19 and clutch offense from the late-game unit to cruise past Smith in the semifinal matchup. The well-balanced performances set up a championship game for the ages, against the WPI Engineers. In a back-and-forth game, the MIT Engineers received positive contributions from their starters and the bench on their way to their first NEWMAC championship; the team will face Marymount in the first round of the NCAA Division III tournament. Holinski was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Men's Fencing (15–9, 8–2 NEWMAC) put on a strong showing at the New England Intercollegiate Fencing Championship. Sheel Patel '20 was the center of the headlines, as he took away the individual epee title and became the first Engineer to do so in four years. The epee squad finished third. Meanwhile, Avi Zeff '20 led the foil squad to a fourth place finish and the sabre squad placed third. The Engineers as a whole repeated their performance from last year and finished second in the championship.

Women's Fencing (14–12, 9–3 NEWMAC) dominated opponents at the New England Championship and claimed the title for the eighteenth time in program history. The sabre squad ranked fifth, while the foil squad ranked first. The epee squad also finished first and were led by a dazzling performance by Helen Sakharova '19, who became the first Engineer to win the epee individual time three times.

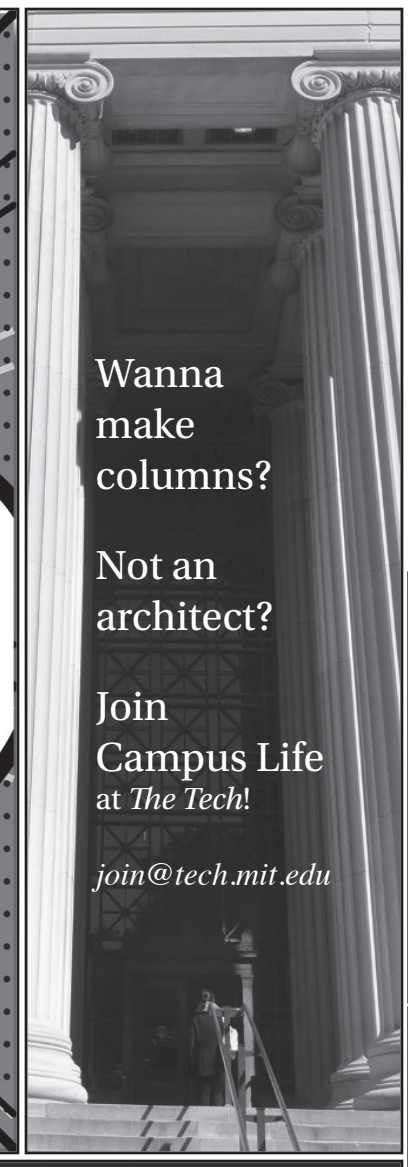
Men's Tennis (2–1) dominated at home against Bentley University by winning two out of three doubles matches and five out of six singles matches.

Men's Swimming and Diving (9–1, 3–0 NEWMAC) notched 1,555 total points on their way to their tenth consecutive NEWMAC championship, and their thirteenth all-time. Bouke Edskes '20 was adjudged the NEWMAC Men's Swimmer of the Year award and Samuel Solomon '20 was named the NEWMAC Men's Diver of the Year.

Women's Swimming and Diving (5–5, 3–0 NEWMAC) won the NEWMAC championship for the eighth straight year after putting up 1,314 total points. Blake Zhou '20 was awarded the NEWMAC Women's Diver of the Year title.

Squash (16–7) fell to Williams College in a close consolation matchup at the CSA Team Championship. The Engineers completed the season ranked No. 22 in the nation.





Are you dying to tell someone your latest ephiphany?

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Solution to Pencil

from page 12

B	I	L	L	■	A	P	P	S	■	O	N	E	P	M
O	N	E	A	■	Y	A	L	E	■	N	E	V	E	R
F	O	A	M	■	E	D	E	N	■	S	T	E	P	S
F	I	V	E	C	A	R	D	D	R	A	W	■	■	■
O	L	E	■	L	Y	E	■	■	A	L	T	A	R	S
■	■	I	S	E	E	■	C	U	T	E	■	L	E	I
■	E	T	N	A	■	S	O	R	E	■	F	L	A	G
S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L	S	K	E	T	C	H
A	T	O	P	■	M	A	S	S	■	A	T	I	T	■
S	A	M	■	P	E	R	T	■	C	Z	A	R	■	■
S	T	E	L	L	A	■	■	B	I	O	■	E	A	R
■	■	■	Y	A	N	K	E	E	D	O	O	D	L	E
A	P	A	R	T	■	I	D	L	E	■	D	O	O	M
P	I	X	I	E	■	D	I	O	R	■	D	U	N	E
E	X	E	C	S	■	S	E	W	S	■	S	T	E	T

Solution to Summer

from page 13

7	5	1	3	8	2	4	9	6
1	8	4	6	2	5	7	3	9
5	3	8	1	6	9	2	7	4
4	2	7	9	5	8	1	6	3
6	4	9	2	7	1	3	8	5
2	9	5	7	3	6	8	4	1
8	6	2	4	9	3	5	1	7
3	1	6	8	4	7	9	5	2
9	7	3	5	1	4	6	2	8

Solution to March

from page 12

1	6	9	4	5	8	7	3	2
7	2	8	6	1	3	9	5	4
4	3	5	9	7	2	1	6	8
5	7	3	8	4	9	6	2	1
9	1	2	7	6	5	8	4	3
8	4	6	3	2	1	5	9	7
2	9	4	1	8	6	3	7	5
6	5	1	2	3	7	4	8	9
3	8	7	5	9	4	2	1	6

Solution to Spring

from page 12

3	1	6	5	2	4
4	2	1	6	3	5
1	5	4	3	6	2
6	4	3	2	5	1
2	6	5	4	1	3
5	3	2	1	4	6



DSL Speaker Series: Professor Daniel Jackson

Portraits of Resilience

Prof. Daniel Jackson's recently published *Portraits of Resilience* is a compilation of personal stories of MIT students, faculty, and staff who have grappled with daunting challenges and found ways to overcome them and succeed, even in the fast-paced, demanding environment of MIT. There are some remarkable lessons for each of us in these stories.

RSVP
https://tinyurl.com/JacksonMarch8

Building 26-100
Thursday, March 8
2:00 PM, Reception @ 3 PM

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